

HOUSE RESOLUTION 113

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Vanderbilt University women's tennis team, 2017 Southeastern Conference Champions.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are honored to recognize those student athletes who, through their athletic endeavors, bring honor and acclaim to themselves, their universities, and this State; and

WHEREAS, one such group of remarkable student athletes is the Vanderbilt University women's tennis team, which recently won the 2017 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament championship after claiming the team's first-ever regular season SEC title; and

WHEREAS, ranked second in the country, the Commodores entered the SEC Tournament on a high note, having upset the number-one ranked Florida Gators to win the SEC regular season championship with a thrilling 4-2 victory as senior Sydney Campbell fought back from a 3-6 deficit in her opening set tiebreaker to take the set 7-6 and go on to win the match and clinch the victory; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Commodores hosted the 2017 SEC Women's Tennis Championship at the Brownlee O. Currey, Jr., Tennis Center, where they enjoyed an enthusiastic crowd and the top seed as regular season champions as they faced Louisiana State University in their opening match; and

WHEREAS, quickly taming the LSU Tigers by a score of 4-2, the Commodores advanced to the semi-finals, where they vanquished the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, 4-1, to earn their way into the finals and a rematch with the University of Florida, the defending SEC Tournament champions; and

WHEREAS, seeking to defeat the top-ranked team in the nation for the second time in as many weeks, the Commodores quickly fell behind, losing the doubles point; Vanderbilt junior Astra Sharma evened the score with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Florida's Belinda Woolcock in a decisive two-set win; and

WHEREAS, in a classic fight worthy of an SEC championship, Florida took the next singles point before Vanderbilt senior Sydney Campbell battled back to claim a three-set, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, victory over Florida's Ingrid Neel and tie the match yet again; and

WHEREAS, a Florida victory at number four singles put the Commodores in a tight spot, requiring the Vandy women to win both of the two remaining singles matches to attain the SEC Tournament Championship; and

WHEREAS, in perhaps the fiercest match of the day, Vanderbilt freshman Christina Rosca defeated the 2016 SEC Player of the Year Brooke Austin in a three set match, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, to claim Vanderbilt's third point; and

WHEREAS, the final outcome rested on the shoulders of Vanderbilt sophomore Fernanda Contreras at number six singles, who won a quick 6-0 first set before standing strong against her Florida rival to break and then hold serve for the match and claim the second SEC Tournament Championship in the history of the program; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2017 SEC Champion women's tennis team are Sydney Campbell, Georgina Sellyn, Astra Sharma, Payton Robinette, Fernanda Contreras, Summer Dvorak, Emily Smith, Emma Kurtz, and Christina Rosca—Fight Does!; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Commodores enjoyed the astute leadership and guidance of head coach Geoff Macdonald, associate head coach Aleke Tsoubanos, volunteer assistant coach Boomer Saia, and strength and conditioning coach Emil Iankov; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence displayed by these individuals, both on and off the court, have enabled them to find success in the athletic arena and will surely engender success in all their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that this talented team be recognized by the members of this legislative body for their accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and congratulate Coach Geoff Macdonald and the members of the 2017 Vanderbilt University women's tennis team on their recent capture of the SEC Tournament Championship and the regular season title, extending our best wishes for their continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.